

Day by Day
With the Master

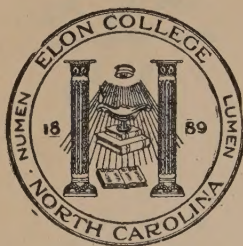
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ROBERT CLUETT

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DAY BY DAY WITH THE MASTER

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DAY BY DAY WITH THE MASTER

Scripture Readings with Prayers for the
Use of Young People

ROBERT CLUETT



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THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF
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INTRODUCTION

Mr Cluett's former book, "Every Morning," was designed for use in family worship, and those who are acquainted with it know how admirably it is adapted to that purpose. The present volume is intended to aid young people in their individual devotions, and a glance over its pages will suffice to show its value.

"When I was a child I spake as a child, I felt as a child, I thought as a child." But childhood ideas are outgrown and childhood ways are left behind. The consciousness of youth is a wider, deeper affair, and requires a different language. For this reason boys and girls of teen age often find it difficult to express what they think and feel. Especially is this true in spiritual matters. They have not acquired the vocabulary of religious thought and experience. They cannot utter the emotions and aspirations that arise in them; and consequently many fall away from the habits of piety formed in childhood.

This book meets the needs of youth at that particular point. The passages selected from the gospels will bring before them impressive scenes and instructive incidents from the life of Jesus, and familiarize them with the great sayings of the Master. The prayers that follow will not only charm them into a worshipful mood, but will also furnish them a simple speech in which that mood may utter itself; and, better still, will help them to develop a devout dialect of their own. It is hoped that the work may gain wide circulation, and it is certain that the use of it will be richly rewarded.

DAVID HUGH JONES

FOREWORD

THIS book has been prepared for young people. The Scripture readings embrace the life of Jesus, from His birth to His ascension. The purpose of each introduction is to increase the interest in the portion of Scripture that follows. The short prayers are not intended to take the place of a young person's own prayers, but rather to supplement them. Each prayer is related to the Scripture lesson it follows, with a view to adding to the impression made upon the mind by God's word. I pray that those who make use of this little volume may find it an aid to devotion, and that it may increase their love for the Bible.

ROBERT CLUETT.

DAY BY DAY WITH THE MASTER

JESUS AND THE WISE MEN

INTRODUCTION

JESUS began his earthly life as a little babe, just as each one of us began it. His birthplace was a manger, but God looked down and saw the little babe, and He sent a star to guide the wise men to where Jesus was. When they found Him they gave Him wonderful gifts, and this was the first Christmas day, and these were the first Christmas presents.

SCRIPTURE

NOW when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judæa in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. . . .

When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.—Matt. 2: 1, 2, 9-11.

PRAYER

I THANK Thee, my Father, that Jesus was once a little babe, and that Thou didst send Him from heaven to earth because of Thy great love for us. Help me to take Him as my example, and may I try to follow Him by endeavoring to do the things He would have me do. Be near me, O Lord, whenever I am tempted to do wrong, that I may always choose the right. I ask for Thy blessing upon all those who are dear to me. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

JESUS AND THE SHEPHERDS

INTRODUCTION

THERE never was such an important event as the birth of Jesus. It is not strange, therefore, that God sent an angel to tell the shepherds, who were watching their flocks by night, that He had been born, and where they might find Him. What a wonderful song that must have been that the angels sang! No wonder the shepherds made haste to go and find Jesus.

SCRIPTURE

AND there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

Glory to God in the highest; and on earth peace, good will toward men.—Luke 2: 8-14.

PRAYER

O MY Saviour, I cannot hasten, like the shepherds, to worship at Thy cradle, but I can bow at Thy footstool and join the song of the angels, Glory to God in the highest. My heavenly Father, be pleased to accept the worship that I offer Thee, and may I, like the shepherds, want to behold Jesus, and to abide in His presence. I am grateful for all the joy Thou hast put into my life. I thank Thee for friends and companions, and for my home and for all the blessings I receive at Thy hands each day. Help me to make the right use of these gifts that I may glorify Thee. Hear my prayer, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

INTRODUCTION

AS a little babe Jesus was taken to the temple to be consecrated to God and to His service. Simeon, an aged and devout worshiper, was already in the temple, and on beholding Jesus, he received Him in his arms, and gave thanks to God for this wonderful gift of a Saviour.

SCRIPTURE

AND, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him.

And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law,

Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said,

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word:

For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,

Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;

A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.—Luke 2: 25-32.

PRAYER

I THANK Thee, O Lord, that Simeon was able to see in the infant Redeemer the salvation of the world.

May I be able to see in Jesus Christ the light of the world, and may He so shine in my heart that His light and love shall be reflected in my daily life. I thank Thee for Thy constant care, for all that Thou hast provided for my welfare and comfort. I pray that I may be obedient to Thee in all things, and that I may not let any day pass without my trying to do some good. In Jesus' name. Amen.

JESUS AS A LITTLE BOY

INTRODUCTION

WHEN a boy of twelve, Jesus was again taken to the temple, and He must have wondered at all that He saw there and in the city. He was so interested that He gave no thought to returning home. He was found listening to the teachers and asking them questions. He seemed surprised that His parents should not know where to find Him, as His answer to His mother indicated.

SCRIPTURE

NOW his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover.

And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast.

And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it.

But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance.

And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him.

And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.

And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.

And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing.

And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

—Luke 2: 41-49.

PRAYER

MY heavenly Father, as Jesus honored Thee in His boyhood, so may I try to love and serve Thee in my early life. Give me grace to be about my heavenly Father's business at home, at school, or wherever I may be. Help me to remember Thy word and to treasure it. I ask for Thy blessing upon the poor and needy, and upon all who are suffering from illness or sorrow. Deliver me from unkind thoughts or words, and help me to be considerate of the comfort and feelings of all with whom I come in contact. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

JESUS BAPTIZED

INTRODUCTION

THOUGH Jesus was the Son of God, He was baptized, as His followers are, and as He prayed heaven was opened, and the voice of God was heard, attesting to the Sonship of Jesus. The prayer of the Saviour was answered, as all true prayer to God is answered.

SCRIPTURE

AND as the people were in expectation, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ, or not;

John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire. . . .

Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened,

And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him; and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.

—Luke 3: 15-22.

PRAYER

MY Lord and Master, I would like to live so near Thee that I shall hear when Thou dost speak to me. When Thou dost speak to me in Thy word, and in the still, small voice of conscience, help me to give a listening ear. I pray that Thou wilt forgive all that Thou dost behold in me that is unworthy of one who is trying to serve Thee. When I meet with difficulties or disappointments may I look to Thee for help and strength, knowing that Thou dost love me. Hear my prayer, O Lord, in the name of Jesus Christ, my Saviour. Amen.

WHAT SEEK YE?

INTRODUCTION

TWO days after His baptism, Jesus is seen passing where John and two of his followers were standing.

The two disciples were John and Andrew, and what they had learned about Jesus made them anxious to know more concerning Him. They asked Jesus where He lived, and they had the joy of being His guests for a day.

SCRIPTURE

A GAIN the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples;

And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!

And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.

Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou?

He saith unto them, Come and see. They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour.

One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.

And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.
—John 1: 35-42.

PRAYER

I THANK Thee, my Father, for this question the two disciples asked Jesus, Where dwellest Thou? I know that Jesus dwells with Thee in heaven, and that He prayed that His followers might dwell there with Him. I rejoice that I may have the Saviour abiding with me here, and that I may have fellowship with Him. May I hear, when He asks me what I am seeking, and wilt Thou forbid that I should seek things that He would not have me seek. Help me to seek first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness. For the sake of Jesus Christ, my Saviour. Amen.

JESUS TEMPTED

INTRODUCTION

THAT Jesus was tempted in all points like as we are, seems strange unless we remember that He was human as well as divine. That He might know what it means for us to fight Satan, it seemed needful that Jesus should suffer this conflict with the devil, that He might show us how to overcome.

SCRIPTURE

THEN was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights he was afterward an hungred.

And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,

And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;

And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.—Matt. 4: 1-10.

PRAYER

I OFFER Thee grateful praise, my Father, that we have the promise that we shall not be tempted above that we are able to bear. Thou dost always provide a way of escape. Teach me to shun the places where evil lies in wait, and help me to overcome temptations that cannot be avoided. In all places and in all things may I be more than conqueror through Him that loves me. Amen.

JESUS CHOOSES TWO DISCIPLES

INTRODUCTION

WE now come to the first year of the ministry of Jesus. Our Lord came to preach glad tidings, and also to train men who should carry on the work after Him. His first two disciples were John and Andrew, who, when Jesus called them, left all to follow Him.

SCRIPTURE

A GAIN the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples;

And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!

And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.

Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou?

He saith unto them, Come and see. They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour.

One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

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And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld

him, he said, Thou art Simon, the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.

—John 1:35-42.

PRAYER

I THANK Thee, my Father, that the footsteps of the first two disciples were heard by Jesus as they followed Him, and that He turned and asked, What seek ye? What a gracious privilege was theirs, to be invited to go with Jesus, and to be His guests! How glad I am, O Lord, that Jesus has bidden me to follow Him, and I praise Thee for the joy His companionship has given me. I beseech Thee, grant that my Saviour may always be a welcome guest in my heart, and that He may abide with me unto the end. For His sake. Amen.

JESUS CLEANSSES THE TEMPLE

INTRODUCTION

THE temple at Jerusalem was regarded as a religious center, and it was now the time for the observance of the passover feast. Those who sold doves and cattle and those who exchanged money had desecrated the house of God by making it a place of barter. Jesus drives them forth.

SCRIPTURE

AND the Jews' passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem,

And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting:

And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money and overthrew the tables;

And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise.

And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up.—John 2: 13-17.

PRAYER

HELP me to love Thy house, O Lord, and to reverence the place where Thou dost dwell. When I go to church wilt Thou go with me, and keep me from distracting thoughts. I would realize the sacredness of Thy house, and allow nothing to enter it that shall be displeasing to Thee. I ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, my Saviour. Amen.

THE FIRST MIRACLE

INTRODUCTION

JESUS and five of His disciples were invited to a wedding, and we may be sure they accepted the invitation gladly. On such occasions innocent pleasures were indulged in, and there would be feasting and music and singing. We seldom think of Jesus as having a part in our social affairs, but He is always ready to share with us our joys as well as our sorrows. He chose a wedding to perform His first miracle.

SCRIPTURE

AND the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there.
And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage.

And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine.

Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come.

His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you do it.

And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece.

Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim.

And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it.

When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom,

And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now.

This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.—John 2: 1-11.

PRAYER

I COME to thee, my Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, my Saviour. I thank Thee for the assurance that Jesus is interested in the affairs of our everyday life, and that it is possible to have His presence, not only on religious occasions, but also in our pleasures. I pray that I may never do anything upon which I cannot ask His blessing, and that I may never go anywhere where I cannot be sure of His presence. I ask these things in His name. Amen.

THE NOBLEMAN'S SON HEALED

INTRODUCTION

A NOBLEMAN, a high court official, had heard of Jesus and of the wonderful works He performed. His heart was deeply stirred over the illness of his little boy. He seeks Jesus and asks Him to come and heal his little son. Our Lord immediately quieted his fears by telling him that his son lived. The nobleman believed Jesus, and his faith was rewarded by the recovery of the little boy.

SCRIPTURE

SO Jesus came again into Cana of Galilee, where he made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman, whose son was sick at Capernaum.

When he heard that Jesus was come out of Judæa into Galilee, he went unto him, and besought him that he would come down, and heal his son: for he was at the point of death.

Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe.

The nobleman saith unto him, Sir, come down ere my child die.

Jesus saith unto him, Go thy way; thy son liveth. And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way.

And as he was now going down, his servants met him, and told him, saying, Thy son liveth.

Then enquired he of them the hour when he began to

amend. And they said unto him, Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him.

So the father knew that it was at the same hour, in the which Jesus said unto him, Thy son liveth: and himself believed, and his whole house.

This is again the second miracle that Jesus did, when he was come out of Judæa into Galilee.—John 4: 46-54.

PRAYER

HELP me to approach Thee with a thankful heart, O Lord. Thou hast given me the privilege of coming into Thy presence, and I would draw near with faith, believing that not one of Thy promises can fail. As the faith of the nobleman was rewarded by the recovery of his son, so Thou dost ever reward the faith of those who put their trust in Thee. Help me to realize that I have a loving Saviour who is always moved with compassion in the time of sore need. I ask this in His name. Amen.

JESUS AT THE POOL OF BETHESDA

INTRODUCTION

A POOR cripple who had suffered for many years lay near the edge of the pool, hoping each day that someone would offer him the needed aid to enter when the water was troubled, but he waited in vain. When Jesus saw him, He was moved with pity and healed him.

SCRIPTURE

AFTER this there was a feast of the Jews; and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches.

In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water.

For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had.

And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years.

When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole?

The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me.

Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.

And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the sabbath.—John 5: 1-9.

PRAYER

MY heavenly Father, teach me from what I have just read, what wonders may be wrought in my life if I will just take Jesus at His word. Without Thee I am helpless and without strength, but if I will listen to Thy word and obey it, then I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. I give myself anew to Thee, praying, Be Thou my strength and my salvation. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

GOD'S GREAT LOVE

INTRODUCTION

THE cross was already before the eyes of Jesus. As a look at the brazen serpent brought healing to the stricken ones in the wilderness, so does the cross of Christ bring healing and life to those who look to it for salvation. It is not strange that in this Scripture God's great love is so closely associated with the cross, for it was there that it found its greatest manifestation.

SCRIPTURE

AND as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:

That whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have eternal life.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd.

But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.—John 3: 14–21.

PRAYER

O LOVING Father, may I have a better understanding of the meaning of the cross upon which my Saviour suffered and died. Give me, I pray Thee, a new vision of Thy wondrous love in giving Thine only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. When I think of this wonderful expression of Thy love, and of what Jesus endured for me, may I be willing to make any sacrifice for Him, and may I love and serve Thee with all my heart. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

FOUR FISHERMEN CALLED

INTRODUCTION

PETER and Andrew were just about to begin their day's work, for they were casting their first net.

When Jesus bid them follow Him, they immediately forsook their nets to obey Him. A little further away Jesus found James and John in their father's boat, busy mending their nets. Jesus called them, and they at once left their father and the nets, and followed Jesus.

SCRIPTURE

AND Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.

And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

And they straightway left their nets, and followed him.

And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them.

And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him.

And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.

And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they

brought nto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.—Matt. 4: 18-24.

PRAYER

MY Lord and Master, help me to remember what I have just read. I thank Thee that Thou dost seek and find followers. Teach me prompt obedience when Thou dost call me to any service. No matter how busy I may be, help me, like the fishermen, to respond at once. May I remember that Thou hast chosen me as a disciple, and that Thou hast a work for me to do. May Thy grace enable me to do it faithfully and well. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

JESUS IN THE SYNAGOGUE

INTRODUCTION

JESUS returned to His home town, and this may have been the first time that He taught publicly there.

He received from an attendant a roll containing a selection from the prophets for that day. He told His hearers that this Old Testament prophecy was fulfilled in Him, and they marvelled that He spoke so graciously.

SCRIPTURE

AND he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.

And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him.

And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.

And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth, And they said, Is not this Joseph's son?—Luke 4: 16-22.

PRAAYER

MY heavenly Father, I thank Thee that Thou dost always hear prayer, and that Thy promises never fail. Thy goodness toward me is constant, and all the blessings I enjoy come from Thy bountiful hand. As Jesus made it His custom to attend public worship on the Sabbath, so may I ever make it a rule to be in my place in church each Sunday, that I may worship Thee in Thy house. I thank Thee that Thy word, spoken through Thy prophets of old, was fulfilled in Jesus Christ, my Saviour. Amen.

THE MIRACULOUS DRAUGHT OF FISHES

INTRODUCTION

THE four fishermen, Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John, had spent the night fishing, without success. In the morning as they were washing their nets, Jesus entered Peter's boat and asked him to row out a little from the shore, that He might teach the multitude that thronged Him. After finishing His teaching, Jesus told Peter to go into deeper water and let down the net. Peter's faith was large enough to lead him to obey, and now the catch was so great that the net began at once to break.

SCRIPTURE

AND it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret,

And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets.

And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship.

Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught.

And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.

And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake.

And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink.

When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.

For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken:

And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men.

—Luke 5:1-10.

PRAYER

TRULY, O Lord, Thou art mindful of Thy followers, whether adversity or prosperity attends them. I thank Thee for this great miracle that Jesus performed for the tired and discouraged fishermen. Teach me that in all my undertakings Jesus is looking on, and that if I will obediently follow His word, I may be sure that His promises will not fail, and that His reward shall be certain. In Jesus' name. Amen.

JESUS AND THE UNCLEAN SPIRIT

INTRODUCTION

WE again find Jesus teaching in the synagogue on the Sabbath. A man was there who was under the influence of an evil spirit. At the command of Jesus, the evil spirit departed. It is not strange that those present were astonished, and noted that the teaching of Jesus was unlike the teaching of the scribes, and that He spoke with the authority of God.

SCRIPTURE

AND they went into Capernaum; and straightway on the sabbath day he entered into the synagogue, and taught.

And they were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes.

And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out,

Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.

And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him.

And when the unclean spirit had torn him, and cried with a loud voice, he came out of him.

And they were all amazed, insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, What thing is this? what new doctrine is this? for with authority commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him.

—Mark 1: 21-27.

PRAYER

I BOW before Thee, my heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, my Saviour. I pray daily to be delivered from evil. In my own strength I cannot overcome it, but by Thy help I can resist the evil one and gain the victory. I beseech Thee, O Lord, so to fill my life with good thoughts and good deeds, that there shall be no room for evil. May I overcome evil with good. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

THE GREAT PHYSICIAN

INTRODUCTION

AFTER leaving the synagogue on the Sabbath, Jesus and three of His disciples went to the home of Peter, where the mother of Peter's wife lay ill with a fever. Jesus, taking her by the hand, raised her up, and she was immediately healed. Later in the day many suffering ones were brought to Jesus, and He healed them.

SCRIPTURE

AND forthwith, when they were come out of the synagogue, they entered into the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John.

But Simon's wife's mother lay sick of a fever, and anon they tell him of her.

And he came and took her by the hand, and lifted her up; and immediately the fever left her, and she ministered unto them.

And at even, when the sun did set, they brought unto him all that were diseased, and them that were possessed with devils.

And all the city was gathered together at the door.

And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.—Mark 1:29-34.

PRAYER

I THANK Thee, my Father, for the tenderness of Jesus, and for the blessings that attend His presence in the home. Help me to try to imitate Him by showing sympathy for those who suffer. May my feet be swift on errands of mercy and love, and may my attitude toward those at home, and beyond it, show I am indeed a follower of the Master. In His name I ask this. Amen.

THE LEPER HEALED

INTRODUCTION

A MAN with leprosy came beseeching Jesus to heal him. He was in dead earnest, for he was suffering from a disease that was regarded as almost incurable, and that separated him from his friends. He does not seem to question the power of Jesus to heal him, but he is not sure that that power will be exercised in his behalf. Jesus immediately touched him and healed him.

SCRIPTURE

AND there came a leper to him, beseeching him, and kneeling down to him, and saying unto him, If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.

And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth his hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean.

And as soon as he had spoken, immediately the leprosy departed from him, and he was cleansed.

And he straitly charged him, and forthwith sent him away;

And saith unto him, See thou say nothing to any man: but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer for thy cleansing those things which Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.

But he went out, and began to publish it much, and to blaze abroad the matter, insomuch that Jesus could no more openly enter into the city, but was without in desert places; and they came to him from every quarter.

—Mark 1: 40-45.

PRAYER

I COME to Thee, my heavenly Father, with thanksgiving in my heart and upon my lips for all Thy mercies toward me. I thank Thee for a Saviour who is always touched with a feeling of compassion for all those who seek His help. As the leper came to Jesus for cleansing, so do I come, beseeching Thee to cleanse me from all sin. May I hear the voice of Jesus saying, I will, be thou clean. Help me to remember that it is the pure in heart who see God and enjoy His presence. In Jesus' name. Amen.

JESUS CALLS MATTHEW

INTRODUCTION

A GAIN we find Jesus in the home. This time it is Matthew's. Jesus had called him, and he had left his place as tax gatherer to follow the Master. Matthew made a great feast, and Jesus and His disciples were there, and also many publicans. Jesus made answer to those who criticized Him for sitting at the table with publicans.

SCRIPTURE

A ND as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose, and followed him.

And it came to pass, as Jesus sat at meat in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with him and his disciples.

And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners?

But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick.

But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.—Matt. 9: 9-13.

PRAYER

MY heavenly Father, teach me the lesson that I should learn from what I have just read. Make it very real to me that Jesus has called me to be a disciple. I would be as ready to follow the Saviour as Matthew was, even though it may sometimes mean self-denial and sacrifice. May I have grace to follow my Lord and Master in the small things of my everyday life, and may I have the joy of feeling that Jesus is always near me. In His name. Amen.

HEALING OF THE PALSIED MAN

INTRODUCTION

JESUS returned to Capernaum. The people soon heard of His arrival, and the house was filled with those who desired to hear Him. A man with palsy was brought on a bed by four friends. They could not get into the crowded house, so they carried the man up an outside stairway to the roof, where they broke up the tiling and let the man down through the opening to where Jesus stood.

SCRIPTURE

AND straightway many were gathered together, inso-much that there was no room to receive them, no, not so much as about the door: and he preached the word unto them.

And they come unto him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four.

And when they could not come nigh unto him for the press, they uncovered the roof where he was: and when they had broken it up, they let down the bed wherein the sick of the palsy lay.

When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.

But there were certain of the scribes sitting there, and reasoning in their hearts,

Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God only?

And immediately, when Jesus perceived in his spirit

that they so reasoned within themselves, he said unto them, Why reason ye these things in your hearts?

Whether is it easier to say to the sick of the palsy, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise and take up thy bed, and walk?

But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (he saith to the sick of the palsy,)

I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house.

And immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went forth before them all; insomuch that they were all amazed, and glorified God, saying, We never saw it on this fashion.

—Mark 2:2-12.

PRAYER

I THANK Thee, my Father, that this sufferer with the palsy had friends who carried him to Jesus for healing, and that they did not allow any obstacle to prevent them from placing him at the Saviour's feet. May I learn from this that I may come to Thee in behalf of others who need Jesus. Help me not only to pray for them, but also to do all that I can to aid them in finding the Saviour. For His sake. Amen.

JESUS IN THE CORNFIELD

INTRODUCTION

IT is the Sabbath, and on that day the Jewish law permitted a walk of not more than a mile. The path of Jesus and His disciples led through a cornfield. They are criticised by the Pharisees for plucking and eating the ears of corn. Jesus shows them that God made the Sabbath for man, and for his happiness and welfare.

SCRIPTURE

AND it came to pass, that he went through the corn fields on the sabbath day; and his disciples began, as they went, to pluck the ears of corn.

And the Pharisees said unto him, Behold, why do they on the sabbath day that which is not lawful?

And he said unto them, Have ye never read what David did, when he had need, and was an hungred, he, and they that were with him?

How he went into the house of God in the days of Abiathar the high priest, and did eat the shew-bread, which is not lawful to eat but for the priests, and gave also to them which were with him?

And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath:

Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath.

—Mark 2: 23-28.

PRAYER

I THANK Thee, O God, that Thou hast made the Sabbath and hallowed it. In trying to observe it, help me to take the Saviour as my example, and may I find joy in worship and praise. If I am tempted to do things on Sunday that I believe will be displeasing to Thee, make me strong enough to refrain from doing them. May this Sabbath day prepare me to perform my duties faithfully in the coming week. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

THE MULTITUDE FED

INTRODUCTION

JESUS was surrounded by a great company of pilgrims journeying to Jerusalem to attend the passover feast.

In beholding them, He saw their need of food and rest. He told His disciples to bid the multitude to be seated on the grass, and then, with five barley cakes and two small fishes belonging to a lad, the Lord provided food for that great throng.

SCRIPTURE

WHEN Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?

And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do.

Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little.

One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him,

There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?

And Jesus said, Make the men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand.

And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples

to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would.

When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost.

Therefore they gathered them together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten.—John 6: 5-13.

PRAYER

MY heavenly Father, what I possess may seem very small in my sight, but in Thy sight, and in Thy hands, it may have large possibilities for service. If Jesus could use what the little boy had to feed so large a number, surely I can trust Him to take what I have to offer, and make it a blessing to many. My Lord and Master, I pray Thee, take all that I have, and bless it and use it, and the glory shall be Thine. Amen.

THE HELPLESS HAND

INTRODUCTION

AS Jesus taught in the synagogue on the Sabbath, He saw a man with a withered hand. The Jews present watched Jesus, to see if He would heal on the Sabbath, that they might accuse Him. Jesus bade the man stretch forth his hand, and the man obeyed, and he was healed.

SCRIPTURE

AND he entered again into the synagogue; and there was a man there which had a withered hand.

And they watched him, whether he would heal him on the sabbath day; that they might accuse him.

And he saith unto the man which had the withered hand, Stand forth.

And he saith unto them, Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil? to save life, or to kill? But they held their peace.

And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it out: and his hand was restored whole as the other.

And the Pharisees went forth, and straightway took counsel with the Herodians against him, how they might destroy him.—Mark 3: 1-6.

PRAYER

MOST merciful Father, Thou knowest how greatly I need strength to do what Jesus bids me do. Of myself I am powerless, but in His strength I may be able to follow Him in loving obedience. Help me to be grateful for all Thy gifts, for Thy blessings are showered upon me beyond all that I could ask or think. Make me useful each day, and may I try to be more thoughtful of the needs of others. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

THE TWELVE CALLED

INTRODUCTION

THE Saviour went up into a mountain to spend the night in prayer—no unusual thing for Him to do. In the early morning He chose the twelve, and this choice was probably the subject of His communion with God, while others slept.

SCRIPTURE

AND he goeth up into a mountain, and calleth unto him whom he would; and they came unto him.

And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach,

And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils:

And Simon he surnamed Peter;

And James the son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James; and he surnamed them Boanerges, which is, The sons of thunder:

And Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphæus, and Thaddæus, and Simon the Canaanite,

And Judas Iscariot, which also betrayed him: and they went into an house.—Mark 3: 13-19.

PRAYER

ETERNAL Father, I thank Thee that Thy word makes known not only that Jesus prayed, but that it was

His habit to spend the night in prayer. If my Saviour found it needful to have such long seasons of communion with Thee, how needful it is for His followers to be much in prayer. I am grateful that I may enjoy this great privilege of coming into Thy presence to seek Thy help and guidance. I entreat Thee, deliver me from thoughtless praying, and help me to seek Thee with all my heart. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

INTRODUCTION

WITH increasing numbers gathering about Him, Jesus retired to one of the mountain ranges with His disciples, that He might instruct them concerning the kingdom they were chosen to proclaim.

SCRIPTURE

AND seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him:

And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,
Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.
Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.
Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.—Matt. 5: 1-12.

PRAYER

HOLY Father, help me, I pray Thee, to a fuller understanding of these matchless sayings of Jesus Christ, my Saviour. Having been chosen one of Thy disciples, I, too, would learn from the Great Teacher what I may do to hasten the answer to the prayer He taught, Thy kingdom come. Thou who art the King of kings, wilt Thou reign in my heart. As one of Thy subjects, help me to render Thee loyal service, and may I never be ashamed to let it be known that I belong to Thee. I ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, my Saviour. Amen.

THE CENTURION'S SERVANT HEALED

INTRODUCTION

THE captain of the troop quartered in Capernaum sent elders of the synagogue to Jesus in behalf of his servant or slave, who was dangerously ill. Jesus heeded the request of the elders, and answered the prayer of the centurion by healing the servant.

SCRIPTURE

AND a certain centurion's servant, who was dear unto him, was sick, and ready to die.

And when he heard of Jesus, he sent unto him the elders of the Jews, beseeching him that he would come and heal his servant.

And when they came to Jesus, they besought him instantly, saying, That he was worthy for whom he should do this:

For he loveth our nation, and he hath built us a synagogue.

Then Jesus went with them. And when he was now not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to him, saying unto him, Lord, trouble not thyself: for I am not worthy that thou shouldest enter under my roof:

Wherefore neither thought I myself worthy to come unto thee: but say in a word, and my servant shall be healed.

For I also am a man set under authority, having under

me soldiers, and I say unto one, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.

When Jesus heard these things, he marvelled at him, and turned him about, and said unto the people that followed him, I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

And they that were sent, returning to the house, found the servant whole that had been sick.

—Luke 7: 2-10.

PRAYER

MY heavenly Father, I praise Thee that Thou art a never-failing source of comfort and help in time of trouble. Thou dost always respond to the cry of distress, and Thou dost reward the faith of those who put their trust in Thee. I thank Thee that when those dear to us are suffering, we can look to Jesus in their behalf, assured of His loving sympathy and help. May I have grace to take all my cares and anxieties to Him. For His sake. Amen.

A FUNERAL HALTED

INTRODUCTION

WE learn of two processions. One consisted of Jesus and His disciples and a great multitude, approaching the city gate of Nain. The other consisted of a widow and her dead son and many mourners, leaving the gate to bury the dead beyond the city.

SCRIPTURE

AND it came to pass the day after, that he went into a city called Nain; and many of his disciples went with him, and much people.

Now when he came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her.

And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not.

And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare him stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise.

And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother.

And there came a fear on all: and they glorified God, saying, That a great prophet is risen up among us; and, That God hath visited his people.

And this rumour of him went forth throughout all Judæa, and throughout all the region round about.

—Luke 7: 11-17.

PRAYER

I PRAISE Thee, my Father, for the Old Testament prophecy, "Sorrow and sighing shall flee away," and for its gracious fulfilment in Jesus Christ. I am thankful that I have a Saviour who is able to turn sorrow into joy, and that He manifested His sympathy and power in behalf of the stricken widow. Surely I may trust such a Saviour, whatever may befall me. My Lord and Master, help me to follow Thee in lowly service all the days of my life. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

SUNDAY

JESUS PRAYS

INTRODUCTION

IN this prayer of Jesus He gives thanks that the great truths He taught could be comprehended by His followers, whom the Pharisees despised. He then gives the gracious invitation to come unto Him.

SCRIPTURE

AT that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.

Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight.

All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

—Matt. 11: 25-30.

PRAYER

I THANK Thee, my Father, that Thou hast made Thy word so plain that even children can understand it.

Fix Thy word in my mind, I pray Thee, and may it always be a light unto my path, that I may see plainly how to follow Jesus. I am grateful for the Saviour's invitation to come unto Him. I know that His yoke is easy, and His burden light, for when I take His yoke upon me, I always find Him sharing it with me. My Saviour, help me to walk with Thee and work with Thee, that my life may be a fruitful one. In Jesus' name. Amen.

MONDAY

THE MOTHER AND BRETHREN OF JESUS

INTRODUCTION

WHILE Jesus was speaking to the multitude in some public place, His mother and brethren, who were outside, made it known that they wished to speak to Him. When Jesus was told, He explained that spiritual kinship was greater than earthly ties.

SCRIPTURE

WHILE he yet talked to the people, behold, his mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him.

Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee.

But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren?

And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren!

For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

—Matt. 12: 46-50.

PRAYER

I THANK Thee, Holy Father, for home and its blessed relationships, and for the love of those dear to me.

I praise Thee that Jesus not only calls those who follow Him His friends, but that He also encourages them to claim kinship with Him. Help me to remember that this spiritual relationship implies doing the will of my heavenly Father. I am grateful that Thou hast made me a member of the family of God, and I devoutly pray that I may ever be found seeking my heavenly Father's interests. In Jesus' name. Amen.

HEARING AND UNDERSTANDING

INTRODUCTION

JESUS, seated in a boat, taught the multitude gathered near the shore. Possibly a man on the hillside before Him, casting seed, suggested the parable to Jesus. The disciples did not fully understand the meaning of the parable, and Jesus explained it to them.

SCRIPTURE

HEAR ye therefore the parable of the sower.
When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.

But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it;

Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.

He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.

But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundred-fold, some sixty, some thirty.—Matt. 13: 18-23.

PRAYER

MY heavenly Father, I am glad that Jesus was always ready to answer the questions of His disciples, and I thank Thee that Thou dost encourage me to look to the Saviour when perplexing questions arise in my mind. I pray that I may hear Thy word aright, and that it may find lodgment in my heart, and bear fruit to Thy glory. The Saviour has said, I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit. Help me, Lord, to be a fruitful follower of Jesus Christ. For His sake. Amen.

JESUS STILL THE STORM

INTRODUCTION

AFTER dismissing the multitude as night was approaching, Jesus and His disciples entered a fishing boat and set sail across the lake. In His weariness Jesus fell asleep, but He was aroused by the disciples in great fear, for a storm had arisen and the boat was filled with water.

SCRIPTURE

AND the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto him, Let us pass over unto the other side.

And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship: and there were also with him other little ships.

And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full.

And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish?

And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?

And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?—Matt. 4: 35-41.

PRAYER

MY Lord and Master, I praise Thee that Thou dost rule in heaven and upon earth, and that the wind and sea obey Thee. Wilt Thou rule in my heart, and when troubles or doubts assail me, may I realize the presence of Jesus, and call upon Him for help. Give me faith to believe that at His command, "Peace, be still," an immediate calm will follow. Increase my trust in Thy loving care, and teach me that I am safe if I am where Jesus is. For His sake. Amen.

IMPORTUNATE PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

JESUS had already given His disciples instruction in prayer. He now gives a parable on persisting in prayer. He also gives three great promises to those who ask, seek and knock, and assures them of God's readiness to give to those who call upon Him.

SCRIPTURE

AND he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves;

For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him?

And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee.

I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth.

And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent?

Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?

If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

—Luke 11: 5-13.

PRAYER

FORGIVE me, O Lord, if my prayers have been lacking in earnestness. I fear that I sometimes pray in a listless manner, without really expecting an answer, and sometimes I begin to doubt when an answer seems to be delayed. May I have grace to believe that every promise of Thine will be kept, and that if I ask I shall receive, if I seek I shall find, and if I knock it shall be opened to me. I know that I shall not displease Thee if I seek importunately the good gifts Thou hast graciously promised. Hear my prayer, in Jesus' name. Amen.

HEALING OF A DUMB MAN

INTRODUCTION

JESUS had just given sight to two blind men, when a dumb man with an evil spirit was brought to Him for healing. Jesus cast out the evil spirit and restored speech to the man who had been dumb. The compassion of Jesus never failed.

SCRIPTURE

AS they went out, behold, they brought to him a dumb man possessed with a devil.

And when the devil was cast out, the dumb spake: and the multitudes marvelled, saying, It was never so seen in Israel.

But the Pharisees said, He casteth out devils through the prince of the devils.

And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few;

Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.—Matt. 9: 32-38.

PRAYER

THOU God of all grace, I praise Thee for the compassion of Jesus; for the wonderful power He so often exercised in behalf of those who were taken to Him for healing, so that evil spirits departed at His command, and the dumb were made to speak. I thank Thee for the God-given power of speech, and I pray that Thou wilt help me to make the right use of it. Forbid that I should say anything that will offend, but may the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my Redeemer. Amen.

DAUGHTER OF JAIRUS RAISED

INTRODUCTION

ONE of the chief men of the synagogue came to Jesus very humbly, and begged Him to come and heal his only daughter, who was at the point of death. When Jesus reached the ruler's house, He found she was already being mourned as dead. Jesus went to the room where the little girl lay and, taking her by the hand, He restored her to life.

SCRIPTURE

WHILE he spake these things unto them, behold, there came a certain ruler, and worshipped him, saying, My daughter is even now dead: but come and lay thy hand upon her, and she shall live.

And Jesus arose, and followed him, and so did his disciples. . . .

And when Jesus came into the ruler's house, and saw the minstrels and the people making a noise,

He said unto them, Give place: for the maid is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed him to scorn.

But when the people were put forth, he went in, and took her by the hand, and the maid arose.

And the fame hereof went abroad into all that land.

—Matt. 9: 18-26.

PRAAYER

MY heavenly Father, I thank Thee that though the Saviour was subjected to the scornful laughter of those who were gathered in the ruler's house, He heeded it not, but brought life to one who was dead. I pray for grace to do those things that Thou dost bid me do, even though it may sometimes be at the cost of derision. Help me to be a faithful follower of my Lord and Master, whatever the cost may be. For His sake. Amen.

A SINNER'S OFFERING

INTRODUCTION

THE name of the woman is not given. She was known as a sinner, and she may have heard the gracious invitation of Jesus, "Come unto me." Regardless of the assembled guests at Simon's table, she came to Jesus with her offering of tears and ointment, and sought and found forgiveness.

SCRIPTURE

AND one of the Pharisees desired him that he would eat with him. And he went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat.

And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment,

And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment.

Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner.

And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on.

There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty.

And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave

them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most?

Simon answered and said, I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged. . . .

Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little.

And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven.

—Luke 7: 36-48.

PRAYER

MY Lord and Saviour, Thou art indeed the Friend of sinners, and Thou dost never turn from those who seek Thee in repentance and tears. I am thankful that though I have not always remembered Thee, but have sometimes erred and strayed, Thou hast freely forgiven when I have again sought Thee. I praise Thee that Thy love never ceases, for Thou art the Good Shepherd, and when one of Thy flock wanders from the fold, Thou dost seek until the lost is found. Keep me close to Thyself, I beseech Thee, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

JUDGING OTHERS

INTRODUCTION

DURING the brief years of His earthly ministry, Jesus sought to teach His twelve chosen followers many things. One of these had to do with judging the shortcomings of others, and He gives them the distinct command, "Judge not."

SCRIPTURE

JUDGE not, that ye be not judged.
For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?

Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?

Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

—Matt. 7: 1-8.

PRAYER

I PRAY Thee, my Father, help me to learn the lesson that Jesus taught His disciples regarding hasty and unkind judgment. Thou knowest that I am pained if I believe others speak ill of me. Help me to think of this whenever I am inclined to entertain or give utterance to unkind thoughts concerning others. I would maintain a charitable spirit toward all, remembering Thy gentleness and forbearance toward me. May I ever have in mind what Jesus said, "Judge not." For His sake. Amen.

THE TRUE VINE

INTRODUCTION

THIS is a part of the discourse of Jesus after partaking of the communion with His disciples. He compares Himself and His apostles to a vine and its branches. The sight of the wine cup may have suggested the thought.

SCRIPTURE

I AM the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.—John 15: 1-9.

PRAYER

GIVE me understanding, I pray Thee, my Father, that I may see what Jesus meant by likening the relation between Himself and His followers to that of the vine and its branches. Grant me grace to abide in Jesus Christ, who is the only true source of life, for only then shall I be able, as a living branch, to bear fruit and glorify Thee. I pray that not a day may pass without my doing some good. In thought, speech, and act, I would be a fruit-bearing disciple. In Jesus' name. Amen.

A WISE MAN AND A FOOLISH ONE

INTRODUCTION

THE Saviour makes plain that something more is required than making profession of discipleship.

He shows that entrance to the kingdom of God is gained only by doing the will of God.

SCRIPTURE

NOT every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine:

For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.—Matt. 7: 21-29.

PRAYER

I THANK Thee, O Lord, that Thou hast called me to be one of Thy disciples. I would not only bear the name of a disciple, but I would strive to have the trust of a disciple, and to do the work of a disciple. May I realize that true discipleship means devotion to Thee and obedience to Thy word. By Thy help, I may be not only a hearer, but also a doer of the word. I ask Thee, my Father, to direct all my ways. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

FAITH TESTED

INTRODUCTION

A SHORT journey from Capernaum brought Jesus and His disciples to the borders of Tyre and Sidon. There He entered a house, and would have no man know it, but He could not be hid. A woman who had heard of His wonderful works sought Him to heal her daughter.

SCRIPTURE

THEN Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon.

And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with the devil.

But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us.

But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me.

But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs.

And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.

Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman,

great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

—Matt. 15: 21-28.

PRAYER

O LOVING Saviour, I thank Thee that those who seek Thee are sure of a blessing at Thy hands. I pray that I may try to have the faith of the woman of Canaan, who, though others tried to hinder her, persisted until the answer to her prayer came. I entreat Thee, my Father, for a faith that will not be denied, even though the answer may seem long in coming. May my faith be so real, that the Saviour may say of me, "Great is thy faith." For Jesus' sake. Amen.

PETER'S QUESTION ANSWERED

INTRODUCTION

THE Twelve were in the habit of going to Jesus with their questions, and now Peter came to ask if he should grant forgiveness to one who had offended as many as seven times. The answer of Jesus implies that He would not limit forgiveness.

SCRIPTURE

THEN came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?

Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.

Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants.

And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents.

But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made.

The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt.

But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and

he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest.

And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt.

So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done.

Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me:

Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee?

—Matt. 18: 21-33.

PRAYER

THOU God of all mercy, I thank Thee that I, too, may enjoy the privilege that Peter and the other disciples enjoyed of going to Jesus with their questions. I am glad that the Saviour answered this question on forgiveness, and that He teaches me not to count the number of times I forgive. I pray to Thee daily to forgive me as I forgive others, and yet I do not always show the forgiving spirit that I should. May I have so rich a measure of Thy love that I shall forgive from my heart those who sin against me. In the name of Jesus Christ my Saviour. Amen.

THE SAVIOUR WEEPS

INTRODUCTION

ON two occasions Jesus was moved to tears. He thus manifested His grief at the grave of Lazarus, showing His sympathy for those He loved. Again He wept over Jerusalem as He beheld it and thought of its wickedness and its impending doom.

SCRIPTURE

AND when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it,

Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes.

For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side,

And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.—Luke 19: 41-44.

Then when Mary was come where Jesus was, and saw him, she fell down at his feet, saying unto him, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled,

And said, Where have ye laid him? They said unto him, Lord, come and see.—John 11: 32-34.

PRAYER

MY Lord and Master, I am moved by the human tenderness of my Saviour. Though He was the Son of God, He did not count it weakness to shed tears in the presence of sorrow and death. May I realize what a dreadful thing sin is, that its contemplation should cause Jesus to weep. Help me to remember that I cannot do wrong without causing my Saviour sorrow. May I also remember that when sorrow or trouble come to me, I can go to Jesus for sympathy and comfort. I ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ my Saviour. Amen.

BEING WATCHFUL

INTRODUCTION

BY the use of parables, Jesus explains to His disciples the importance of watchfulness. He would have them in a state not only of expectancy, but also of preparedness.

SCRIPTURE

LET your loins be girded about, and your lights burning;

And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately.

Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them.

And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants.

And this know, that if the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through.

Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.

Then Peter said unto him, Lord, speakest thou this parable unto us, or even to all?—Luke 12: 35-41.

PRAYER

MY heavenly Father, I pray that I may always be looking for the presence of the Saviour, who is my Lord and Master. As one of His servants, I am charged with certain duties, and I would engage in them so faithfully that I shall not fear that the Lord will find me unprepared for His coming. I am grateful that it is my privilege to be employed in Thy service. Help me to be watchful each hour of the day, that no unkind word shall escape my lips, and that no opportunity for service shall be neglected. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

THE HIDDEN LIGHT

INTRODUCTION

JESUS calls His disciples the light of the world, and shows them how useless a hidden light is. He tells them that the truth should be carefully listened to, and then heeded.

SCRIPTURE

YE are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick, and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

—Matt. 5: 14-29.

PRAYER

O GOD, my heavenly Father, I thank Thee for a Saviour who is the light of the world, and I pray that the light that He has kindled in my heart may not be hidden, but that it may be used to disperse darkness in the lives of others. Help me to obey the command of Jesus, and take heed to Thy word. Thou hast given it to me for my guidance, and I pray for grace to read Thy word more carefully, that I may discover the rich treasure it contains. May Jesus Christ rule in my daily life. For His sake. Amen.

HEALING OF THE BLIND MAN

INTRODUCTION

A BLIND beggar who sat at the door of the temple seeking alms was noticed by Jesus and His disciples. The disciples were curious to know whose fault it was that the man was born blind. The interest of Jesus centers in the man's pitiable condition, and He gives him sight.

SCRIPTURE

AND as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth.

And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?

Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.

I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay,

And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed and came seeing.

The neighbours therefore, and they which before had seen him that he was blind, said, Is not this he that sat and begged?

Some said, This is he: others said, He is like him: but he said, I am he.

Therefore said they unto him, How were thine eyes opened?

He answered and said, A man that is called Jesus made clay, and anointed mine eyes, and said unto me, Go to the pool of Siloam, and wash: and I went and washed, and I received sight.—John 9: 1-11.

PRAYER

I THANK Thee, O Lord, for all the blessings of my life. I cannot count all Thy mercies, they are so many. I am grateful for my eyes, and for all they enable me to enjoy. May I make a right use of them, that they may be used in Thy service. I consecrate them to Thee, praying that they may see the opportunities for doing good that lie in my path. Above all, may I behold Thee in all the blessings that are mine. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

PARABLES OF THE KINGDOM

INTRODUCTION

SEATED in the prow of a fishing boat, Jesus addressed the multitude on the shore, and proclaimed the new kingdom of God. For their better understanding of the great truths He presented, He made use of many parables, some of which are in the following Scripture.

SCRIPTURE

ANOTHER parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field:

Which indeed is the least of all seeds; but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.

Another parable spake he unto them: The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened. . . .

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant-man, seeking goodly pearls;

Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind:

Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away.

So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just;

And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Jesus saith unto them, Have ye understood all these things? They say unto him, Yea, Lord.

Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven, is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old.—Matt. 13: 31–33, 44–52.

PRAYER

MY heavenly Father, I thank Thee for the many parables spoken by the Saviour, and I pray that they may enable me to have a better understanding of what He taught. I praise Thee for the spread of Thy kingdom, and I ask for Thy help, that I may have some part in making Jesus known. May I see that there is something for me to do, and that Thou dost honor me by permitting me to be a worker together with Thyself. Increase my love for Thy kingdom, I entreat Thee, in the name of Jesus Christ, my Saviour. Amen.

FOOTSTEPS ON THE SEA

INTRODUCTION

HAVING sent the disciples across the sea in their boat, Jesus dismissed the multitude and went up into a mountain to pray. Far past midnight the disciples were toiling at the oars against a very boisterous sea, when Jesus appeared, walking upon the water.

SCRIPTURE

AND straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away.

And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.

But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary.

And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.

And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear.

But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.

And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.

And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.

But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.

And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased.—Matt. 14: 22-32.

PRAYER

MY heavenly Father, as I think of the wonderful works that Jesus performed, I can say of Him, as did those toiling disciples on the sea, "Of a truth Thou art the Son of God." If troubles threaten, and fears assail me, I pray that I may realize that Jesus knows all about it, and will come to my help. May I behold Him in the darkest hours, and hear Him say, "Be of good cheer; it is I, be not afraid." Grant me an abiding faith in Him, under all circumstances. For His sake. Amen.

PROFIT AND LOSS

INTRODUCTION

JESUS makes known to His disciples that suffering and death await Him, but gives them the glorious promise of His resurrection. He tells them that losing life is to find it, and that it cannot profit a man to gain the whole world, if he lose his own soul.

SCRIPTURE

FROM that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.

Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.

But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?—Matt. 16: 21-26.

PRAYER

MY Father in Heaven, I cannot wonder that Peter was appalled at the thought that Jesus was to suffer and die. Help me to remember that it was for me that He endured the agony of the cross. Teach me, I pray Thee, the true value of life, and make me willing to spend it in Thy service. May I count all things but loss, if I may but gain Jesus Christ. I would manifest my love for Him by being ready to make any sacrifice for His sake. I pray for grace to make such use of my life, that I shall glorify my Saviour each day. For His sake. Amen.

JESUS PRAYS FOR HIS DISCIPLES

INTRODUCTION

JESUS prays for those who are His, asking God to have them in His keeping, that they may be safe from the evil that is in the world. He claims them as His own; that God has given them to Him.

SCRIPTURE

I PRAY not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.

And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.

Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word.—John 17: 15-20.

PRAYER

O LORD God Almighty, I humbly pray for the forgiveness of my sins, in the name of Jesus Christ, my Saviour. I praise Thee that Thy word teaches that Jesus prays for those who are trying to follow Him. Even as I now come to Thee, I may believe that Jesus is my Advocate, and that He intercedes in my behalf. If my plea is weak and faulty, He will sanctify it and make it His own. I offer Thee grateful praise, my Father, for the gift of such a Saviour. In His name. Amen.

OUR TREATMENT OF OTHERS

INTRODUCTION

JESUS teaches that love should not be confined to those who love us, but that it should include our enemies as well. He would have us show the same spirit toward those who are unfriendly, and who injure us, as He Himself manifested. We are to follow His example.

SCRIPTURE

YE have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth:

But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.

And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloke also.

And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.

Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.

Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy:

But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

—Matt. 5: 38-45.

PRAYER

MY Lord and Master, I do desire to be taught by Thee, Thou who art the Source of all wisdom and goodness. Thou dost bid me love my enemies, and do good to those who hate me. Thou knowest it is not difficult for me to love my friends, or to do good to them, but I sometimes show a very different spirit to those who are unfriendly. I devoutly pray that the love of Jesus Christ may so fill my heart, that I shall be able to obey Thy command to love my enemies and do good to them. Hear my prayer, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

TWO BLIND MEN HEALED

INTRODUCTION

AS Jesus was on the way to Peter's house, He was followed by two blind men, whose sight had been destroyed by disease. They appealed to Him as the expected Messiah, and begged for mercy. They declared their faith that Jesus was able to restore their sight, and He healed them.

SCRIPTURE

AND when Jesus departed thence, two blind men followed him, crying, and saying, Thou son of David, have mercy on us.

And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him: and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord.

Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you.

And their eyes were opened: and Jesus straitly charged them, saying, See that no man know it.

But they, when they were departed, spread abroad his fame in all that country.—Matt. 9: 27-31.

PRAYER

I THANK Thee, O Lord, that those who come to Thee with trustful hearts are assured of Thy blessing. Thou art ever moved with compassion for those who call upon Thee for mercy, for the Lord is merciful and gracious. Help me to trust Thee as completely as the blind men trusted Thee, that I may hear Thee say, "According to your faith be it unto you." I praise Thee, my Father, that Jesus is my Friend, and I pray that He may walk with me each day, and that I may never go where He cannot go with me. For His sake. Amen.

EARTHLY AND HEAVENLY TREASURE

INTRODUCTION

JESUS contrasts earthly with heavenly riches, that it may be seen how fleeting earthly things are, and how enduring are the treasures that are laid up in heaven for those who love Him.

SCRIPTURE

LAY not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.

But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!—Matt. 6: 19–23.

PRAYER

MY Father, help me to lay up treasure for myself, and may I be sure that it is the kind that endures. I know that if my heart is fixed only upon those things that will contribute to earthly pleasure, I cannot be rich toward God. May my love for Thee prompt me to seek riches that the world cannot give or take from me, the riches that I may enjoy in this life and in the life which is to come. May I seek my highest joy and the richest treasure in striving to do all the good I can, in the name of Jesus Christ, my Saviour. Amen.

GOD'S CARE FOR HIS CHILDREN

INTRODUCTION

THE Saviour reminds His disciples that God cares for the birds, and feeds them. He also points to the flowers of the field in their glorious colors. If God cares for birds and flowers, He surely cares for His children, and they should not be troubled by anxious thoughts.

SCRIPTURE

THEREFORE I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:

And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.—Matt. 6: 25-34.

PRAYER

HOLY Father, may I never have any doubts concerning Thy loving care. Thou art my Father, Thou knowest all my needs, and I can safely trust Thee to supply them. Forgive me that I am sometimes anxious about things that should not trouble me. I am one of Thy children, and I am sure of Thy loving care. Give me a trustful heart, help me to give more thought to my life and how I am spending it, and to have less care concerning things of smaller importance. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

THE TRANSFIGURATION

INTRODUCTION

FOR a week the disciples had been turning over in their minds what Jesus had said about His suffering and death upon the cross. They needed to be cheered and comforted. Jesus took three chosen disciples up into Mount Hermon, where they beheld His glory, and heard God speak.

SCRIPTURE

AND after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart,

And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.

And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias, talking with him.

Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias.

While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and, behold, a voice out of the cloud which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid.

And Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise, and be not afraid.

And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only.

And as they came down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, saying, Tell the vision to no man, until the Son of man be risen again from the dead.—Matt. 17: 1-9.

PRAYER

I PRAISE Thee, my Father, that Thy word makes known what Peter, James, and John saw and heard in the Mount of Transfiguration. Give me, I pray Thee, a fuller understanding of the vision and the voice. Help me to catch a glimpse of that for which Jesus prayed: "Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me." Grant that Jesus Christ may be manifested in my life. For His sake. Amen.

CONFESSING CHRIST

INTRODUCTION

THE time having come for Jesus to reveal Himself to the disciples as the Messiah, He asks two very important questions, and brings out that great confession of Peter.

SCRIPTURE

WHEN Jesus came into the coasts of Cæsarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?

And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?

And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ.—Matt. 16: 13–20.

PRAYER

MY Lord and Master, be Thou my Guide and Helper, as I try to pray. May I hear Thee asking, "Whom do you say that I am?" and may I be able to say from my heart, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God." I praise Thee, my Father, that Jesus has revealed Himself to me as my Saviour, and I ask that I may have grace to confess Him each day, with my lips and by my conduct. O loving Saviour, I would consecrate myself anew to Thee and to Thy service. Amen.

FOLLOWING JESUS

INTRODUCTION

HAVING told His disciples of the suffering that awaited Him before He entered into glory, Jesus now shows them that if they are to follow Him they, too, must bear the cross; nothing must hinder their devotion to Him.

SCRIPTURE

THEN said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.—Matt. 16: 24-28.

PRAYER

MY heavenly Father, I have given myself to Thee, and I count myself a follower of Jesus Christ.

As I hope to be a partaker in the joy that He came to obtain for me, I humbly pray for grace that will enable me to be ready to share His suffering. He bids me take up the cross daily, and follow Him. Forgive me that I have sometimes been unwilling to make sacrifices for Him. As I think of what He endured for my sake, may I count no sacrifice too great to make for Him. In His name. Amen.

SUNDAY

THE GREATEST IN THE KINGDOM

INTRODUCTION

JESUS and His disciples were in that Capernaum home where they were wont to talk together. In the quiet of the evening He asked them a question they were ashamed to answer, so they remained silent, and sitting there surrounded by the Twelve, Jesus taught a great lesson.

SCRIPTURE

AND he came to Capernaum: and being in the house he asked them, What was it that ye disputed among yourselves by the way?

But they held their peace: for by the way they had disputed among themselves, who should be the greatest.

And he sat down, and called the twelve, and saith unto them, If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all.

And he took a child, and set him in the midst of them: and when he had taken him in his arms, he said unto them,

Whosoever shall receive one of such children in my name, receiveth me: and whosoever shall receive me, receiveth not me, but him that sent me.

—Mark 9: 33-37.

PRAYER

MY heavenly Father, I thank Thee that I can come to Jesus with my questions. Help me to listen when He asks me questions, as I believe He does sometimes ask them, as really as He asked the Twelve. I know He will be very patient with my lack of understanding, as He was with the disciples. I pray Thee, teach me humility, and may I be able to see that the greatest in the kingdom are those who serve. Wilt Thou hear my prayer, as I ask Thee to make me a faithful servant of Thine. In Jesus' name. Amen.

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

INTRODUCTION

JESUS draws a picture of the unfitness of the teachers of Israel to lead God's flock. He makes plain that He is the Good Shepherd, and that He knows His sheep, and that they know Him and follow Him.

SCRIPTURE

VERILY, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.

But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.

To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.

And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.

And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers. . . .

I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.

As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.—John 10: 1-5, 14, 15.

PRAYER

MY Father in Heaven, I am grateful that Thou hast taken me into Thy fold, and that I can say, "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want." Keep me from straying, and help me to follow Jesus, wherever He may lead, for then I know that all my wants shall be supplied. Though the path may be difficult, and the way sometimes seem strange, if Thou, my Saviour, art leading, I need not fear. Trustfully I shall be able to say, "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life." Hear my prayer, O Lord, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

JESUS AND A LAWYER

INTRODUCTION

THIS parable was given by Jesus in answer to the question of a lawyer who sought to entrap the Saviour. Jesus showed him what it meant to love his neighbor as himself.

SCRIPTURE

AND Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.

And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side.

But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him,

And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee.

Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?

And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.

—Luke 10: 30-37.

PRAYER

HOLY Father, I pray that the remembrance of Thy goodness toward me may make me thoughtful of others. I thank Thee that Jesus has made so plain the meaning of the command, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." I realize how difficult it may sometimes seem to yield obedience to this command, and I beseech Thee, help me to love Thee with all my heart, and with all my strength, and with all my mind, and then only shall I be able to love others as myself. Grant me grace to do this, O Lord, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

A WOMAN HEALED

INTRODUCTION

JESUS was teaching in the synagogue on the Sabbath. He saw a woman who was unable to stand erect, because of an infirmity, and He healed her. The ruler of the synagogue was angered because Jesus had performed the miracle on the Sabbath.

SCRIPTURE

AND, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself.

And when Jesus saw her, he called her to him, and said unto her, Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity.

And he laid his hands on her: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.

And the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because that Jesus had healed on the sabbath day, and said unto the people, There are six days in which men ought to work: in them therefore come and be healed, and not on the sabbath day.

The Lord then answered him, and said, Thou hypocrite, doth not each one of you on the sabbath loose his ox or his ass from the stall, and lead him away to watering?

And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?

And when he had said these things, all his adversaries were ashamed: and all the people rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by him.—Luke 13: 11-17.

PRAYER

MOST gracious God, I thank Thee for home and for the loved ones Thou hast given me, and I pray that Thou wilt help me to live in my home as a true follower of Jesus Christ. I praise Thee for a Saviour who pities the unfortunate, and who is ever ready to give relief to those who suffer. I am glad that He spoke words of healing and comfort to the woman who was bent with infirmity, and I pray that, as one of His disciples, I may try to do good to those who need sympathy and help. May I remember Thy great love for me each day. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

JESUS AND MARY AND MARTHA

INTRODUCTION

JESUS is in the home of Mary and Martha and Lazarus, where He was ever a welcome guest. Martha asked Jesus a question, for she was troubled that her sister Mary left the household cares chiefly to her. The answer of Jesus shows that He regarded Mary's quiet devotion as preferable to worry over daily tasks.

SCRIPTURE

NOW it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house.

And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word.

But Martha was cumbered about much service, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.

And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:

But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

—Luke 10: 38-42.

PRAYER

MOST heartily do I thank Thee, my Father, for all Thy goodness toward me. I praise Thee for this glimpse of Jesus in the home, and I am thankful that He has a place in my home, and that He is always welcome. Forbid that I should give so much thought to my secular duties that I shall find little time to sit at the feet of Jesus and learn of Him. Help me to be faithful in my daily tasks, but keep me from neglecting the one thing needful, the companionship and fellowship of my Saviour. In His name. Amen.

JESUS ONE WITH GOD

INTRODUCTION

ON a wintry day Jesus was walking in the covered porch of the temple, when He was surrounded by the Jews. The question they asked Him plainly indicated that they sought an accusation against Him. He tells them that He and the Father are one.

SCRIPTURE

AND it was at Jerusalem the feast of the dedication, and it was winter.

And Jesus walked in the temple in Solomon's porch.

Then came the Jews round about him, and said unto him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly.

Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me.

But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you.

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

I and my Father are one.—John 10: 22-30.

PRAYER

O GOD, Thou King Eternal, help me to draw near reverently and with faith. May I have greater love for Thy word, and strive to be more obedient to it. I praise Thee that it reveals Jesus as the Son of God, and the Saviour of men. In His gracious words and in His wonderful works may I behold Thee, Thy love, Thy goodness, and Thy grace. I would consecrate myself anew to Thee and to Thy service. Accept the offering of my love and devotion, in Jesus' name. Amen.

THE INVITATION DECLINED

INTRODUCTION

THIS parable of the Great Supper was given by Jesus as He sat at meat with His disciples in the home of a Pharisee. It was called forth by a remark made by one of those present, and the parable indicates the kind of hospitality that yields the largest return.

SCRIPTURE

THEN said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many:

And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready.

And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused.

And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused.

And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.

So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind.

And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room.

And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.

For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper.—Luke 14: 16-24.

PRAYER

I THANK Thee, my Father, that I may learn the things that Jesus taught when He walked among men.

I praise Thee for His gracious invitation to partake with Him of the wonderful provision of Thy bounty. Forbid that I should begin to make excuse when He bids me share in the richness of Thy grace. May I see that it is possible for me to be one of Thy messengers in extending the invitation of Jesus to come to Him. For His sake. Amen.

SEARCHING FOR THE LOST

INTRODUCTION

THOSE whom the Jewish rabbis would not permit to come near them gathered about Jesus to hear Him. The Pharisees were angered that he should talk and eat with publicans and sinners, and Jesus spoke these parables to these murmuring Pharisees.

SCRIPTURE

AND he spake this parable unto them, saying, What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?

And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing.

And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost.

I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it?

And when she hath found it, she calleth her friends and her neighbours together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost.

Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.

—Luke 15: 3-10.

PRAYER

O LOVING Father, I thank thee that Jesus came to seek and save the lost. Help me to see in these parables how near the Saviour's heart sinners are, for He came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. May I never cease praising Thee that He sought and found me. Teach me how Thou dost value the finding of the lost, for heaven rejoices over one sinner who is found. My Father, help me to have some part in the seeking of those who are lost, that I may share in the joy of my Saviour. For His sake. Amen.

THE PRODIGAL SON

INTRODUCTION

IN this beautiful parable Jesus pictures our heavenly Father's love and tenderness for His straying children. With forgiving love He watches and waits for the wanderer's return.

SCRIPTURE

AND he said, A certain man had two sons:
And the younger of them said to his father,
Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living.

And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living.

And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want.

And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.

And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him.

And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!

I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven and before thee,

And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.

And he arose, and came to his father. But when he

was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.

But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet:

And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry:

For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

—Luke 15: 11-24.

PRAYER

MY heavenly Father, may this parable enable me to see more plainly than ever how great Thy love for Thy children is, and how ready Thou art to welcome and forgive those who stray when they turn their faces toward Thee. Grant that I may never have a desire to separate myself from Thee, and if I do fall into temptation, give me a longing to return to Thy presence and to the joy of dwelling with Thee. I beseech Thee, help all who are sorely tempted, and give them strength to remain true to Thee. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

JESUS ANOINTED

INTRODUCTION

A FEAST was being given in honor of Jesus by one who was once a leper. As they reclined at table, Mary came with a flask of very costly ointment and poured it on the head of Jesus. He received it gratefully and paid a tribute to Mary.

SCRIPTURE

AND being in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at meat, there came a woman having an alabaster box of ointment of spikenard very precious; and she brake the box, and poured it on his head.

And there were some that had indignation within themselves, and said, Why was this waste of the ointment made?

For it might have been sold for more than three hundred pence, and have been given to the poor. And they murmured against her.

And Jesus said, Let her alone; why trouble ye her? she hath wrought a good work on me.

For ye have the poor with you always, and whensoever ye will ye may do them good: but me ye have not always.

She hath done what she could: she is come aforehand to anoint my body to the burying.

Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her.

—Mark 14: 3-9.

PRAYER

MY Lord and Master, accept, I pray Thee, my offering of praise and gratitude. I never can be thankful enough for all Thy goodness toward me. I do not come with precious ointment, but with a penitent and contrite heart. Thy love for me has been boundless, and I would count nothing too costly or precious to offer Thee. I give myself to Thee, and pray that Thou wilt accept me and make me willing to make any sacrifice in Thy loving service. Hear my prayer, for the sake of Jesus Christ, my Saviour. Amen.

TEN LEPERS HEALED

INTRODUCTION

WHILE on His way to Jerusalem to attend the Passover, Jesus was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance because of their loathsome disease. The Saviour heeds their cry for mercy, and heals them. Only one of the ten rendered Jesus thanks.

SCRIPTURE

AND as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off:

And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.

And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed.

And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God,

And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan.

And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?

There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger.

And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.—Luke 17: 12-19.

PRAYER

I REJOICE in the privilege of calling upon Thee, my heavenly Father. I offer Thee sincere praise and thanksgiving for the mercies without number Thou hast bestowed upon me. Fix in my mind the teaching of this lesson, and may I be reminded afresh of the readiness of the Saviour to listen to the cry for mercy. While I may wonder that nine of the lepers failed to give thanks for their healing, help me to ask myself whether I always thank Thee for Thy rich blessings. Father, forgive my want of gratitude, I beseech Thee. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

TWO KINDS OF PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

IN this parable Jesus teaches how to pray and how not to pray. He calls the Pharisee's prayer, praying with himself; his prayer never reaches the ear of God. The publican humbles himself, and is exalted.

SCRIPTURE

AND he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:

Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican.

The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.

I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.

And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.

I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.—Luke 18: 9-14.

PRAYER

THOU Giver of all good, I thank Thee for this parable on praying, and I ask Thee to forgive me that my prayers are sometimes so faulty. Forbid that I should exalt myself in Thy presence, and help me to come before Thee humbly, confessing my sins. May I dwell much on what Thou givest to me. If I ever speak of the portion of my possessions I give to Thee, may it be with shame that it is so small, compared with what I receive at Thy hands every day of my life. Help me to consecrate myself to Thee, with all that I have. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

THE RULER'S QUESTION

INTRODUCTION

A YOUNG man, a ruler of the local synagogue, came running to Jesus and kneeling at his feet, he asked what he could do to make sure of eternal life. Jesus reminded him of the commandments, and he said he had kept them all. Jesus then pointed out one thing that he lacked, but he was unwilling to meet that condition, and went away grieved.

SCRIPTURE

AND when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?

And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God.

Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother.

And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth.

Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.

And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.—Mark 10: 17-72.

PRAYER

I THANK Thee, my Saviour, that I may come to Thee with my questions, and I pray that I may have the earnestness of the young ruler who came running to Jesus. Help me, my Father, to realize that eternal life is Thy free gift to those who follow Thee. Wilt Thou help me to follow Jesus at any sacrifice, and forbid that I should turn away sorrowfully if Thou dost bid me give up all for Thy sake. Grant me grace and strength to yield obedience to Thy commands, and may I be able to say, "Thy law is my delight." For Jesus' sake. Amen.

JESUS AND ZACCHÆUS

INTRODUCTION

THE fame of Jesus had reached Zacchæus, the tax gatherer, who had gathered riches for himself unjustly. He desired to see Jesus, but could not because of the crowd that thronged Him. He therefore ran ahead and climbed a tree, that he might see Jesus as He passed. Jesus saw Zacchæus and told him to come down and receive Him in his home.

SCRIPTURE

AND, behold, there was a man named Zacchæus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich.

And he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature.

And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him: for he was to pass that way.

And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchæus, make haste, and come down, for to day I must abide at thy house.

And he made haste, and came down; and received him joyfully.

And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, That he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner.

And Zacchæus stood, and said unto the Lord, Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor: and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold.

And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forasmuch as he also is a son of Abraham.

For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.—Luke 19: 2-10.

PRAYER

MY heavenly Father, I thank Thee that those who earnestly seek Jesus are sure of finding Him.

I praise Thee that He is the Friend of sinners, and that He is ever seeking them and is ready to abide with them if they will receive Him. As Zacchæus, in the presence of Jesus, saw his own sinfulness, so may I, when the Saviour draws near me, realize my own unworthiness and make humble confession. I pray that Jesus may abide in my home, and that all that transpires in it may be well pleasing to Him. For His sake. Amen.

PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

INTRODUCTION

JESUS pictures a man about to leave home for a long absence. He places in the hands of his servants varying sums, according to the ability of each one, and they are to make use of the funds in his service. When the day of reckoning came, it was found that two had been faithful to the trust, and they were rewarded, while one made no use of his portion, and consequently suffered loss.

SCRIPTURE

FOR the kingdom of heaven is as a man¹ travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.

And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.

Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents.

And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two.

But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.

After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.

And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst

unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more.

His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them.

His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed:

And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.—Matt. 25: 14-25.

PRAYER

O LORD my God, I thank Thee for the blessings of each day, and that I am never beyond Thy thought or care. May I realize afresh Thy confidence in me, manifested by my being intrusted with such responsibility. Whether Thou hast bestowed upon me means or other gifts, help me to remember that I am Thy steward, and may I so employ what Thou hast placed in my hands, that it shall yield abundantly, and I may receive Thy commendation. In Jesus' name. Amen.

THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

INTRODUCTION

ON this Palm Sunday morning, as Jesus was about to enter Jerusalem, He was met by throngs of pilgrims who had come up to the feast. They waved branches of palms, and with glad shouts they proclaimed Him king. He was, in very truth, the King of kings.

SCRIPTURE

ON the next day much people that were come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem,

Took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord.

And Jesus, when he had found a young ass, sat thereon; as it is written,

Fear not, daughter of Sion: behold, thy King cometh, sitting on an ass's colt.

These things understood not his disciples at the first: but when Jesus was glorified, then remembered they that these things were written of him, and that they had done these things unto him.

The people therefore that was with him when he called Lazarus out of his grave, and raised him from the dead, bare record.

For this cause the people also met him, for that they heard that he had done this miracle.—John 12: 12-18.

PRAYER

THOU who art the King of kings, help me to join the praise of those who sang, "Blessed is the King of Israel." May I see in the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem amid the hosannas of the people the promise of Thy universal reign, when all men shall proclaim Thee the Christ, the Lord of all. I beseech Thee, my Father, help me to do all I can to make the Saviour known. May His image be stamped upon my heart, that He shall be seen in my life each day. Forgive my want of enthusiasm in Thy service, and may I constantly rejoice in the presence of Him who is the Saviour of the world. For His sake. Amen.

THE WIDOW'S MITE

INTRODUCTION

JESUS sat down in the temple near the treasury to rest. The stream of worshipers casting in their offerings could not but be observed. As He notes the gifts, both large and small, He commends the one who evidently gave the least, for it was all she had.

SCRIPTURE

AND Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much.

And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing.

And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury:

For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.

—Mark 12: 41-44.

PRAYER

MY Lord and Master, accept my offering of praise and thanksgiving for all thy lovingkindness toward me. Teach me the lesson my Saviour would have me learn from the offerings in the temple. May it be plain to me that giving is an act of worship, and that if Jesus beholds me when I pray, He must see me when I give. I know that it is not the greatness of the gift that makes the offering most acceptable, but the greatness of the love that prompts it. May I be encouraged, then, if I am able to give but little, for in the hands of my Saviour it may accomplish much. Help me, Lord, to be generous and unselfish. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

THE WISE AND FOOLISH VIRGINS

INTRODUCTION

JESUS shows how it will be at His final coming, by picturing the maidens who play and sing at a wedding procession. Half of them were wise, for they were prepared, while the others were foolish and unprepared, and they were denied entrance to the wedding.

SCRIPTURE

THEN shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.

And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.

They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:

But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.

And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.

Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.

And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.

But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell and buy for yourselves.

And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.

Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.

But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.—Matt. 25: 1-13.

PRAYER

I THANK Thee, my Father, for the promised coming of Jesus Christ, and I praise Thee that He has already come into my heart and life. I beseech Thee, in His name, help me to be prepared, in whatever manner He may come to me as one of His followers. If He comes bidding me to perform some difficult task, may I be ready to give immediate and cheerful response. If He invites me to a closer and more blessed companionship with Him, may I be ready to enter into the joy that such fellowship affords. Give me grace to be watchful for opportunities for service. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

THE GREAT SEPARATION

INTRODUCTION

OUR Lord gives a glimpse of the final judgment, when He will come with the angelic host to sit on His throne. He divides those who come before Him into two groups. Those on the right He bids to a heavenly inheritance, for they have shown their love for Him by ministering to His children. Those on the left failed in this manifestation of love, and they are denied the inheritance that might have been theirs.

SCRIPTURE

WHEN the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:

And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord,

when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?

When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?

Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

—Matt. 25: 31-40.

PRAYER

MY heavenly Father, I thank Thee for the promise of an inheritance that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for Thy followers. I profess to be a disciple of Jesus, and would gladly minister to Him, were He today walking among men. Teach me, I pray Thee, that I may express my love for Him by ministering to those who are His, and that I do not need to seek far for opportunities to show thus my love for the Saviour. Help me to be active in good works, and at last may I hear Jesus say, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you." In Jesus' name. Amen.

PREPARING FOR THE PASSOVER

INTRODUCTION

THE time for the Passover had come, and Peter and John asked Jesus where it should be prepared. He told them that when they entered Jerusalem they would see a man carrying a pitcher of water, and if they followed him into the house he entered they would find the room where Jesus was to partake of the feast with His disciples.

SCRIPTURE

THEN came the day of unleavened bread, when the passover must be killed.

And he sent Peter and John, saying, Go and prepare us the passover, that we may eat.

And they said unto him, Where wilt thou that we prepare?

And he said unto them, Behold, when ye are entered into the city, there shall a man meet you, bearing a pitcher of water; follow him into the house where he entereth in.

And ye shall say unto the goodman of the house, The Master saith unto thee, Where is the guestchamber, where I shall eat the passover with my disciples?

And he shall shew you a large upper room furnished: there make ready.

And they went, and found as he had said unto them: and they made ready the passover.—Luke 22: 7-13.

PRAYER

MY God and Father, I thank Thee for Thy great promises, and that not one of them can fail.

From the experience of Peter and John, who found the promise of Jesus exactly fulfilled, may I learn that, whatever my Saviour bids me do, I am sure of the fulfilment of His promise. I thank Thee for the intimate fellowship these two disciples had with Jesus, and for what it fitted them to do in His name. Help me to have a closer walk with my Saviour. Thou knowest that I need Him always, that I may be faithful in the work He has given me to do. Abide with me, my Lord and Master. Amen.

BETRAYAL FORETOLD

INTRODUCTION

THE Passover is being observed in the house previously designated by Jesus. As they reclined at the table, Jesus, looking at the disciples, declared that one of the Twelve was about to betray Him. Startled and grieved, each one asked, "Is it I?" When Judas asked the question, Jesus answered, "Thou hast said" it.

SCRIPTURE

NOW when the even was come, he sat down with the twelve.

And as they did eat, he said, Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me.

And they were exceeding sorrowful, and began every one of them to say unto him, Lord, is it I?

And he answered and said, He that dippeth his hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me.

The Son of man goeth as it is written of him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! it had been good for that man if he had not been born.

Then Judas, which betrayed him, answered and said, Master, is it I? He said unto him, Thou hast said.

—Matt. 26: 20-25.

PRAYER

LOVING Father, I know not how to pray as I ought, and I ask Thee to guide me by Thy Holy Spirit. I am solemnized by the thought that one of the chosen followers of Jesus could betray Him into the hands of His enemies. May I see that entertaining an evil thought was the beginning of the betrayer's sin, and that by wilful wrong-doing he came at last to deny his Lord and Master. I entreat Thee, my Father, help me to resist evil, and when a wrong thought comes into my mind, give me grace to banish it and not to allow it to bear fruit in an act that is sinful. May I realize how weak I am in my own strength, and look to Thee for help whenever I am tempted to do wrong. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

INSTITUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INTRODUCTION

JUDAS had left the table and gone out into darkness, and Jesus now instituted the Lord's Supper. About to leave His disciples, He establishes this memorial of Himself: a reminder of the merits of His death, and an enduring token of His love.

SCRIPTURE

AND when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him.

And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer:

For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God.

And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves:

For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come.

And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.

Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.

But, behold, the hand of him that betrayeth me is with me on the table.—Luke 22: 14–21.

PRAYER

I PRAISE Thee, O God, for the gift of a Saviour, and I pray that the Lord's Supper may have a larger and deeper meaning to me, as I remember that He established it that it might prove a bond between Himself and His disciples. Help me to value the privilege of sitting at the table of the Lord, and as I eat the bread and drink the wine may I be filled with a sense of His great love in suffering on the cross for me. I earnestly pray that He may have a larger place in my life, and that I may think more constantly of Him and love Him more deeply. For His sake. Amen.

MONDAY

JESUS COMFORTS HIS DISCIPLES

INTRODUCTION

THE members of that little band of Christ's followers were saddened by the thought that He was so soon to leave them. He was touched by their sorrow, and, instead of Himself seeking comfort from them, He seeks to reassure and comfort them. His matchless words have given solace and comfort to myriads of troubled souls.

SCRIPTURE

LET not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.

Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.—John 14: 1-7.

PRAYER

I THANK Thee, my Father, for these words of Jesus I have just read, and for the loving sympathy they express for Thy troubled children. I praise Thee for the promise of a heavenly home. Help me to be grateful for the home Thou hast provided for me here, and may I do all I can for its peace and welfare. I need Thy presence to aid me to set a right example, and to contribute my share to the comfort and happiness of each member of the family. I pray for grace to look to Jesus whenever I am troubled or perplexed. My Lord and Master, I would love Thee better and serve Thee with greater faithfulness. For Thy name's sake. Amen.

JESUS PRAYS FOR PETER

INTRODUCTION

THE hour for the betrayal of Jesus was drawing near, and He was having His last discourse with the Eleven. The loving but impetuous Peter is warned of the danger of his forsaking the Master, and Jesus assures him that He has prayed for him. Peter, still confident of his loyalty, said that others might forsake Jesus but that he was ready to die with Him.

SCRIPTURE

AND the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:

But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

And he said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death.

And he said, I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me.

And he said unto them, when I sent you without purse, and scrip, and shoes, lacked ye anything? And they said, Nothing.

Then said he unto them, But now, he that hath a purse, let him take it, and likewise his scrip: and he that hath no sword, let him sell his garment, and buy one.

For I say unto you, that this that is written must yet be accomplished in me, And he was reckoned among the

transgressors: for [the things concerning me have an end.

And they said, Lord, behold, here are two swords. And he said unto them, It is enough.—Luke 22: 31-38.

PRAYER

ALMIGHTY God, my heavenly Father, I thank Thee for the encouragement and strength afforded Thy followers by the fact that Jesus prayed for Peter. The Saviour knows the temptations I shall meet, and that Satan will try to overcome me. If I do fall, Lord, may the power and love of Jesus Christ restore me. Keep me from self-confidence, help me to realize my own weakness, and may all my trust be in Thee. I am persuaded that the tempter cannot triumph over me, for Jesus prays for me. Hear my prayer, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

THE AGONY IN GETHSEMANE

INTRODUCTION

JESUS went directly to Gethsemane, though He realized that His enemies knew that He was in the habit of going there to pray. He now prayed in such an agony that His sweat appeared like drops of blood. God sent an angel to strengthen Him and, though suffering almost beyond human endurance, Jesus was able to say, "Not my will, but thine, be done."

SCRIPTURE

AND he came out, and went, as he was wont, to the mount of Olives; and his disciples also followed him.

And when he was at the place, he said unto them, Pray that ye enter not into temptation.

And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed,

Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless, not my will, but thine, be done.

And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.

And being in an agony, he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

And when he rose up from prayer, and was come to his disciples, he found them sleeping for sorrow,

And said unto them, Why sleep ye? rise and pray, lest ye enter into temptation.—Luke 22: 39-46.

PRAYER

MOST loving Father, the scene presented in what I have just read cannot but touch my deepest sympathies. I have thought that my Saviour's greatest agony was upon the cross, but I may believe that He suffered most in Gethsemane. I praise Thee for the strengthening angel Thou didst send in answer to His prayer for deliverance. As never before may I realize what Jesus suffered in my behalf, and may it call from the deepest recesses of my heart such love for Him as I have never before experienced. Hear my prayer, I beseech Thee, in His name. Amen.

JESUS BETRAYED

INTRODUCTION

AFTER His third prayer in Gethsemane Jesus aroused His sleeping disciples, and bade them go out with Him to meet Judas and his band. They came armed, to take Him by force, but when Jesus said that He was the one whom they sought they fell to the ground, awed by the majesty of His presence. His disciples fled, and Jesus was led away alone.

SCRIPTURE

AND he cometh the third time, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: it is enough, the hour is come: behold, the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

Rise up, let us go; lo, he that betrayeth me is at hand.

And immediately, while he yet spake, cometh Judas, one of the twelve, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders.

And he that betrayed him had given them a token, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he: take him, and lead him away safely.

And as soon as he was come, he goeth straightway to him, and saith, Master, master; and kissed him.

And they laid their hands on him, and took him.

And one of them that stood by drew a sword, and smote a servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear.

And Jesus answered and said unto them, Are ye come

out, as against a thief, with swords and with staves to take me?

I was daily with you in the temple teaching, and ye took me not: but the scriptures must be fulfilled.

And they all forsook him and fled.—Mark 14: 41-50.

PRAYER

HOLY Father, I cannot wonder that fear overcame those who went to Gethsemane to seize Jesus, nor can I help being moved with compassion as I think of the Saviour going out to meet them and giving Himself into their hands, though more than twelve legions of angels were ready to obey His summons. May I see that He could save others and save Himself, and that He gave His life freely that others might have life and peace and joy. I pray Thee, my Father, help me to be ready to surrender everything, if need be, to show my love for Him who gave Himself for me. In His name. Amen.

PETER DENIES JESUS

INTRODUCTION

AFTER Jesus was taken, they led Him away to the high priest's house, and Peter followed at a distance.

There was a fire in the open court, and Peter sat near it with the enemies of Jesus. He was thrice accused of being one of Jesus' followers, and each time he denied his Lord. Jesus looked upon Peter, and he went out from His presence weeping.

SCRIPTURE

THEN took they him, and led him, and brought him into the high priest's house. And Peter followed afar off.

And when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the hall, and were set down together, Peter sat down among them.

But a certain maid beheld him as he sat by the fire, and earnestly looked upon him, and said, This man was also with him.

And he denied him, saying, Woman, I know him not.

And after a little while another saw him, and said, Thou art also of them. And Peter said, Man, I am not.

And about the space of one hour after, another confidently affirmed, saying, Of a truth this fellow also was with him: for he is a Galilæan.

And Peter said, Man, I know not what thou sayest. And immediately, while he yet spake, the cock crew.

And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And

Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.

And Peter went out, and wept bitterly.—Luke 22: 54-62.

PRAYER

HEAVENLY Father, I pray that the experience of Peter may teach me how to be a true follower of my Saviour. Give me grace to keep near Him and not follow Him afar off. Keep me from seeking the company of His enemies, and forbid that by word or act I should ever deny my Lord. Thou knowest how weak I am, and how inclined I am to be self-reliant, rather than to place my reliance upon Thee. I praise Thee for that pitying look of Jesus. May I think of it when I am tempted to do anything that approaches denial of Him, and may I remember that He prays for me, that my faith may not fail. In His name. Amen.

JESUS SCOURGED

INTRODUCTION

UPON Jesus was inflicted the cruel punishment of lashes upon the bare back, the usual means of extorting confessions from criminals. Such torture was sometimes a preliminary to crucifixion. Adding to this indignity, the soldiers smote Him and spit upon Him.

SCRIPTURE

THEN Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged him. And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and they put on him a purple robe,

And said, Hail, King of the Jews! and they smote him with their hands.

Pilate therefore went forth again, and saith unto them, Behold, I bring him forth to you, that ye may know that I find no fault in him.

Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe. And Pilate saith unto them, Behold the man!

When the chief priests therefore and officers saw him, they cried out, saying, Crucify him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Take ye him, and crucify him: for I find no fault in him.

The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God.

—John 19: 1-7.

PRAYER

O GOD, my Father, I cannot contemplate the humiliation and pain of Jesus without a feeling of shame that there could be found among men those who could so treat the Son of God. Help me to see the greatness of the love of Jesus in enduring all this uncomplainingly. May I also see what a dreadful thing sin is, that it could manifest itself in such cruelty to the meek and lowly Saviour. Grant, I beseech Thee, that I may never do anything to cause Jesus pain. Hear me, O Lord, for His sake. Amen.

JESUS DELIVERED TO BE CRUCIFIED

INTRODUCTION

PILATE tried to release Jesus, but His enemies had determined that He should be crucified, and Pilate yielded to their demand, fearing that he might lose his position if he did otherwise. Jesus was therefore delivered into the hands of His enemies and led away.

SCRIPTURE

AND from thenceforth Pilate sought to release him: but the Jews cried out, saying, If thou let this man go, thou art not Cesar's friend: whosoever maketh himself a king speaketh against Cesar.

When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus forth, and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called the Pavement, but in the Hebrew, Gabbatha.

And it was the preparation of the passover, and about the sixth hour: and he saith unto the Jews, Behold your King!

But they cried out, Away with him, away with him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Cesar.

Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led him away.

And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called

the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha:

Where they crucified him, and two others with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst.—John 19: 12-18.

PRAYER

HOLY Father, help me to remember that the Lord Jesus Christ gave Himself a ransom for me, and that through Him I have been redeemed. Truly He was despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth. As I dwell on the closing hours of His life, may I have a deeper sense of gratitude to my Saviour for His great love. I would consecrate myself anew to Him, and try to do His will more perfectly. My Father, I pray for a closer walk with Him each day. For His sake. Amen.

MONDAY

ON THE WAY TO CALVARY

INTRODUCTION

THE Roman custom of compelling the offender to carry his own cross to the place of execution was followed with Jesus. Bloodstained and exhausted by the treatment He had received, He had insufficient strength for the burden and they compelled a passer-by so carry it.

SCRIPTURE

AND they compel one Simon, a Cyrenian, who passed by, coming out of the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to bear his cross.

And they bring him unto the place Golgotha, which is, being interpreted, the place of a skull.

And they gave him to drink wine mingled with myrrh: but he received it not.

And when they had crucified him, they parted his garments, casting lots upon them, what every man should take.

And it was the third hour, and they crucified him.

And the superscription of his accusation was written over, **THE KING OF THE JEWS**.

And with him they crucify two thieves; the one on his right hand, and the other on his left.

And the scripture was fulfilled, which saith, And he was numbered with the transgressors.—Mark 15: 21-28.

PRAYER

O LOVING Father, I am deeply stirred as I follow anew that walk of the Saviour to Golgotha, bearing His cross alone. Thou knowest that I would gladly have shared the burden with Him. Help me to see that it is possible for me to show my love for Him in a manner quite as acceptable, by obeying His command to take up my cross daily and follow Him. There are things He bids me do that I shrink from doing, because some personal sacrifice is required. I pray for grace to hold myself in readiness for any service it is possible for me to render my Lord. In His name. Amen.

JESUS ON THE CROSS

INTRODUCTION

AFTER Jesus was nailed to the cross, His first words were a prayer for the forgiveness of those who inflicted upon Him such cruel torture. The soldiers mocked Him, and bid Him save Himself if He were the King of the Jews.

SCRIPTURE

THEN said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God.

And the soldiers also mocked him, coming to him, and offering him vinegar,

And saying, If thou be the king of the Jews, save thyself.

And a superscription also was written over him in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, **THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.**—Luke 23: 34-38.

PRAYER

THOU God of all grace, I cannot but be solemnized as I look upon Jesus as He hangs upon the cross.

O that I might better understand His forgiving love, as He asks forgiveness for those who crucified Him! May I now know the meaning of His command, "Love your enemies, pray for them that despitefully use you." My Father, the Saviour has shown me, in the midst of untold suffering, that it is possible to have a forgiving spirit toward those who vent their hatred upon Thy children. I entreat Thee that this revelation concerning forgiveness may lead me to try to forgive as I would be forgiven. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

JESUS FORGIVES A MALEFACTOR

INTRODUCTION

ONE of the robbers who were crucified with Jesus mocked Him, but soon the other one saw in Jesus the Son of God and prayed to be remembered by Him. His prayer was answered, and the Saviour promised that he should be with Him in Paradise that day.

SCRIPTURE

AND one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us.

But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation?

And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss.

And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.

And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.

And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour.

And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst.

And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.—Luke 23: 39-46.

PRAYER

THOU loving Father, may this scene on Calvary make a lasting impression on my mind and heart.

I praise Thee for the hope given to those who have transgressed by the forgiveness found by the dying thief on the cross, even though he had mocked the Saviour. May I learn that sincere repentance and faith are sure to bring forgiveness from a loving and compassionate Saviour. I beseech Thee, keep me from yielding to temptation, and help me to be true to Thee always. May Thy Holy Spirit guide me this day. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

JESUS YIELDS HIS LIFE

INTRODUCTION

AMONG the women who stood near the cross were the mother of Jesus and her sister. John, the beloved disciple, also stood there, and into his hands the Saviour committed the keeping of his mother. After Jesus had received the vinegar offered Him, He gave the cry of victory, "It is finished," and yielded His life.

SCRIPTURE

NOW there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene.

When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son!

Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.

After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst.

Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth.

When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.—John 19: 25-30.

PRAYER

MY LORD and Master, I praise Thee that the work for which Thou didst leave the glory Thou hadst with the Father, the redemption of the world, was finished on the cross. I pray for the fulfilment of the promise, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." My heavenly Father, help me to comprehend the significance of the cross of Christ, and by the aid of Thy Holy Spirit may I be able to have some part in the winning of others to the love and service of Him who died that we might live, Jesus Christ, the Saviour. Amen.

THE PIERCED SIDE

INTRODUCTION

BECAUSE the Jews wished to prepare for their observance of the Sabbath, and because to allow Jesus to remain unburied would defile ceremonial purity, soldiers were sent to complete the brutal work of the executioners. Jesus being dead, a spear was thrust in His side, causing blood and water to flow out.

SCRIPTURE

THE Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.

Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him.

But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs:

But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.

And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe.

For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken.

And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced.—John 19: 31-37.

PRAYER

INFINITE Father, I bow before Thee in deep humility, for I realize my unworthiness to come into Thy presence. Coming in the name of Jesus Christ, Thy Son, I am assured that Thou wilt listen to my prayer. Forgive whatever Thou dost behold in me that is weak and sinful. May the wounded side of my Saviour remind me afresh that His blood was shed for me, that my heart might be cleansed and purified in Thy sight. I renew my consecration to Thee, and, by Thy grace, I will try to manifest my love for Jesus by striving to do His will each day. In His name. Amen.

THE BURIAL OF JESUS

INTRODUCTION

AMONG those who followed Jesus to Calvary was Joseph, a rich member of the Jewish council. He was a secret disciple, and did not vote for the condemnation of Jesus. He begged Pilate for the body of Jesus and, removing it from the cross, he placed it in a tomb he had prepared for himself.

SCRIPTURE

AND, behold, there was a man named Joseph, a counsellor; and he was a good man, and a just: (The same had not consented to the counsel and deed of them;) he was of Arimathæa, a city of the Jews: who also himself waited for the kingdom of God.

This man went unto Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus.

And he took it down, and wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a sepulchre that was hewn in stone, wherein never man before was laid.

And that day was the preparation, and the sabbath drew on.

And the women also, which came with him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the sepulchre, and how his body was laid.

And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment.—Luke 23: 50-56.

PRAYER

HOLY Father, I praise Thee for Thy word, and for its revelations concerning the Saviour. I thank Thee for this secret disciple of Jesus, who honored Him in His death, though he feared to confess his love for the Master while He lived. I pray that I may never be afraid or ashamed to let it be known that I am a disciple of Jesus Christ. I glory in the assurance that He is not ashamed of me, notwithstanding all my want of loyalty and devotion to Him. Help me, O Lord, to live so that others may know that I am a disciple of Jesus Christ. In His name. Amen.

THE EMPTY TOMB

INTRODUCTION

VERY early on this first Easter Sabbath morning, Mary hastened to the tomb of Jesus. She found it empty, and immediately ran to tell Peter. Peter and John ran to the sepulchre and, entering it, found the grave clothes, but the body of Jesus was not there.

SCRIPTURE

THE first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre.

Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him.

Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre.

So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre.

And he, stooping down, and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in.

Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie.

And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself.

Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed.—John 20: 1-8.

PRAYER

MY heavenly Father, I rejoice this morning that the tomb where the disciples sought Jesus was found empty, and that He who had suffered and died now lived again. I praise Thee for His victory over death, and for the glorious hope of the resurrection Thou hast given to all mankind. I give Thee thanks that I may share this hope, and that I need not fear death or the grave, for I am assured that Thou wilt grant me deliverance and eternal joy. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away. Amen.

JESUS APPEARS TO MARY

INTRODUCTION

MARY stood at the tomb of Jesus in tears. Stooping to look into the sepulcher, she beheld two angels, who asked her why she wept. On turning about she saw Jesus, but did not recognize Him until she heard Him speak her name.

SCRIPTURE

BUT Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre,

And seeth two angels in white, sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.

And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him.

And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus.

Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away.

Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master.

Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say

unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken these things unto her.—John 20: 11-18.

PRAYER

HEAVENLY Father, Thou who didst raise the Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, I offer Thee grateful praise that through Him Thou hast given me hope of everlasting life. I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He is the resurrection and the life. I may not behold the risen Lord, as Mary beheld Him, but I may, like her, spread the joyful tidings that Jesus lives. I beseech Thee that He may live in me, and that I may find in Him my life, my strength, and my hope. Help me to walk in the footsteps of my Master this day. For His sake. Amen.

THE WALK TO EMMAUS

INTRODUCTION

ON the afternoon of that resurrection day two of the disciples were returning home to Emmaus. Walking in sadness, they were talking of what had transpired. One whom they thought a stranger joined them, and explained the scripture to them. Not until He was eating with them were their eyes opened, and then He vanished out of their sight.

SCRIPTURE

AND, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs.

And they talked together of all these things which had happened.

And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them.

But their eyes were holden that they should not know him.

And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad?

And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days?

And he said unto them, What things? And they said

unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people:

And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him. . . .

And they drew nigh unto the village whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further.

But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them.

And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them.

And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight.—Luke 24: 13-20, 28-31.

PRAYER

HOLY Father, I thank Thee that I may have the presence of Jesus each hour of the day. I need

Him when sorrow is present, and I cannot know true joy without Him. I pray that He may walk with me today, and that He may have a place in all my plans and in all my undertakings. I would more often be found talking of the things concerning the Saviour, and I pray that He may open up to me the Scriptures, that I may have a better understanding of Thy word. Heavenly Father, grant that the Lord Jesus Christ may abide with me, and be my constant Companion and Guide. For His sake. Amen.

JESUS APPEARS TO DISCIPLES

INTRODUCTION

ON the evening of the same day that He appeared to Mary, Jesus appeared to the Eleven as they were gathered for the evening meal. Fast closed doors did not prevent the Saviour's entry. He brought them a message of peace, and again assured them that they were His messengers.

SCRIPTURE

THEN the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.

And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord.

Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.

And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:

Whosoever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whosoever sins ye retain, they are retained.

But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.

The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.—John 20: 19-25.

PRAYER

MY Lord and Master, I praise Thee for that manifestation of Thyself at the table of the disciples, and for Thy salutation, "Peace be unto you." I thank Thee that Thou hast spoken these same words to me, in answer to prayer for forgiveness and in times of trouble and sorrow. Forbid that I should ever let my heart be troubled, but may I have that peace that the world cannot give, or take from me. Help me to realize that I am one of thy messengers, and may I find joy in making Thee known to others. For Thy name's sake. Amen.

THURSDAY

JESUS AGAIN APPEARS TO DISCIPLES

INTRODUCTION

A WEEK later, the Eleven were gathered on the Sabbath evening. Thomas, who was absent on the previous occasion, was now present. He could not credit what had been told him by those who had seen the Lord. Thomas believed when he saw Jesus and when he heard His voice and saw His wounds.

SCRIPTURE

AND after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you.

Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side; and be not faithless, but believing.

And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.

Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book:

But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.—John 20: 26–31.

PRAYER

I PRAISE Thee, my Father, that on beholding the risen Christ the doubts of Thomas were removed, and that he was able to exclaim, "My Lord and my God." May this teach me that Jesus is very patient with those who are not fully assured as to the truths of Thy word. I pray that the Saviour may manifest Himself to all such doubting ones, and on beholding His wound prints may they acknowledge Him as their Lord and Master. I ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ, my Saviour. Amen.

JESUS APPEARS TO FISHERMEN

INTRODUCTION

SEVEN of the disciples of Jesus had resumed their occupation as fishermen. The night's toil had yielded nothing, and they were returning to land when they saw a Stranger on the shore, who told them where to drop the net. They obeyed, and the net was soon overflowing with fish. Then the disciples recognized Jesus.

SCRIPTURE

AFTER these things Jesus shewed himself again to the disciples at the sea of Tiberias; and on this wise shewed he himself.

There were together Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two other of his disciples.

Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing.

But when the morning was now come, Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus.

Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered him, No.

And he said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes.

Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved saith unto Peter, It is the Lord. Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt his fisher's coat unto him, (for he was naked,) and did cast himself into the sea.

And the other disciples came in a little ship; (for they were not far from land, but as it were two hundred cubits,) dragging the net with fishes.—John 21: 1-8.

PRAYER

MOST gracious God, my Father, again I have the great privilege of coming into Thy presence. Be pleased to accept my offering of thanksgiving for all Thy blessings, and grant me grace and guidance for all the duties Thou dost give me to perform. I praise Thee that it is possible to have the Saviour's presence in our everyday occupations. As the fishermen of Galilee found reward in obeying the word of Jesus, and as the Psalmist found rich reward in obedience to Thy commandments, so may I find joy in doing the things Thou dost bid me to do. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

PETER'S LOVE AFFIRMED

INTRODUCTION

AFTER the disciples had brought ashore their great catch of fish, Jesus invited them to eat with Him. As the simple morning meal ended, Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved Him, and each time Peter declared his love for his Lord. Jesus told Peter how he could show his love for Him, and He also indicated how Peter would die for Him.

SCRIPTURE

SO when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.

He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not.

This spake he signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me.—John 21: 15-19.

PRAYER

ETERNAL God and Father, I praise Thee for this appearance of Jesus to the disciples, and for what He said to Peter. May I be impressed anew by the forgiving love of the Saviour in restoring Peter to his former place as an apostle of Jesus Christ, even though he had so lately denied Him. I pray that when the question comes to me, "Lovest thou Me?" I may be able to say, "Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee." Grant that I may constantly manifest my love for Jesus by being faithful to the work He has given me to do. For His sake. Amen.

THE ASCENSION

INTRODUCTION

ON the fortieth day after His resurrection Jesus led the disciples from Jerusalem out near Bethany where, with hands uplifted in blessing, He was parted from them. As the disciples gazed heavenward two angels appeared and spoke to them. They then returned to Jerusalem with joy.

SCRIPTURE

AND he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them.

And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven.

—Luke 24: 50, 51.

And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.—Acts 1: 10, 11.

And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy:

And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen.—Luke 24: 52, 53.

PRAYER

MOST gracious God and Father, may my heart be filled with praise and joy that Jesus ascended into heaven, and that He sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty. I am grateful that I can share in the gladness the disciples felt as they returned to their homes after receiving the Saviour's parting blessing. Grant that I may have the companionship and fellowship of the risen and ascended Lord, and that I may be continually praising Thee. In obedience to His command I would strive to make Him known, that others may receive Him as Christ, the Son of God. In His name. Amen.

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